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Among the crimes which pass with us under the name of common-school education, must be reckoned too much teaching, that England is our hereditary and natural enemy, whom it would be right to fall upon like a lot of vengeful savages, if we could only take her at a disadvantage, and the result is that parents are often horrified to hear their boys coming home from school with loud and blood-thirsty threats of what they will do to Great Britain when once we get a strong enough navy. To be sure, this is usually outgrown, with other childish distempers and few adults indulge in that sort of talk outside of politicians and editors, whose mouths and pens are always mightier than their swords. And fortunately the indubitable fact is that the American people as a whole are a peace-loving nation, who do not want war with England or any other country. After the sedulous cultivation of the war-feeling a year ago in the Chilean intrigue, when every official influence was set at work to arouse a war-like spirit, and when President Harrison and his fighting naval officers got from the whole country instead of the halloos they expected, only disgusted appeals to quit their fooling and be decent — after that crucial experiment, we say, it would take a rash man to affirm that any war whatever would be “popular” in the United States.—*New York Evening Post*.

I. *The Condition of the Old World Powers.* Standing as the world does to-day, under the marvellous light of the nineteenth century, it is scarcely possible to believe that Europe is one vast military camp. Such, however, is the stubborn fact, for the standing army of Europe, including Russia, has reached the enormous dimensions of 29,000,000 of armed men, ready for a conflict, which is declared by ex-Prime Minister Crispi to be “inevitable.” Never in the history of the nations of the earth was such a condition of things known. It looks as if the nations had gone mad with fear of each other, and had lost all confidence in the integrity and moral convictions of governmental authority.

The whole picture is absolutely unique in the realm of ancient and modern history. This is not all. Each nation has increased her naval armament, until foreign seas absolutely bristle with monster military engines of the deep. Great Britain has in the past three years rendered both her home and foreign coaling stations and treaty stations impregnable at an enormous cost of money, while barefooted men march over her paved streets and cry for work or bread.

It looks as if the volcano of war was almost ready to erupt its fiery hail over the whole of Europe, and fulfil the startling words of Von Moltke uttered just before his death. He declared “the next European war would be one of unequalled devastation and horror.”

II. *Look at the Financial Condition.* It is but a natural sequence that Europe is pauperized by her immense standing army. It is with the utmost difficulty that even England can keep up her financial budget. France and Germany are being taxed to such a degree as to rouse their people to a condition bordering on lawlessness.

Austria, Spain, Italy are even in worse condition, and the whole land is becoming pauperized. Russia has already felt the gaunt fingers of famine clutching at her throat, and the generous hand of our own beloved country,

has been stretched out in her behalf. The monetary condition of Europe is reaching that point when national bankruptcy may soon be the inevitable result.

III. *Look at the Social Condition of Europe.* Living as we do with 3000 miles of ocean between us and the Old World, it is scarcely possible to grasp the condition of things in the various nations of Europe. The impoverished state of the vast majority of her population, is rendering men and women desperate, and lawlessness and criminality of all characters, are sending forth their fiery flames amid the nations, and indicate the premonitions of social upheaval. From one end of France to the other the sullen cries of the restless populace are heard distinctly by the affrighted government. Germany fears to dissolve her Parliament lest a new election should give the socialists a majority in Governmental affairs. Spain's cabinet is laboring under terrible difficulty, and Italy is on the verge of dissolution of her ministry. Nihilism has broken out with increasing virulence in Russia, and Austro-Hungary is in the throes of internal discord. Altogether the picture is an amazing one to contemplate under the blazing sunlight of the Nineteenth Century Civilization.—*Religious Herald*.

## EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

In the United States Senate, on the 25th of January, Senator Hale reported from the committee on naval affairs an amendment to the naval appropriation bill, authorizing the construction of 21 new war vessels, viz., one battleship, two armored coast defenders, ten gunboats, and eight first-class torpedo boats. The amendment was referred to the committee on appropriations. Another step in Europeanizing America.

The question of Sunday closing of the World's Fair is practically, if not officially settled. At the rehearing of the case 10th-13th of January, the committee gave full opportunity for both sides to be presented, the arguments lasting for three days. The matter will probably not be reported from the Committee. They have had one meeting since the rehearing with twelve members present, half of whom were in favor of opening, the other half opposed. General Cogswell, the other member of the committee, though in favor of Sunday opening of the Fair, thinks it useless to bring the matter again before Congress, which will certainly not reverse its previous action. It is understood that the President would veto any bill for Sunday opening.

The Panama Canal investigation has gone forward in France, with its startling disclosures and accompanying excitement. Mr. Charles de Lesseps, son of the famous engineer, delivered up to the examining judge a notebook in cipher, in which the relations of the company to many public men were given. This book compromised a number of eminent persons. Mr. Eiffel admitted before

the examining judge that he had received checks to the amount of twelve million francs and had expended but one million and a half on the canal. Six millions were for his own remuneration and three millions a percentage on machinery which was never delivered. All efforts to involve President Carnot in the scandal have so far failed. Royalists and Boulangists both have been compromised and this has strengthened the Republic. There is a certain book which most of these distinguished Frenchmen are too enlightened to accept in which it is said that "the love of money is a root of every kind of evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Woman's Board of Missions was held in Park Street Church, Boston, on the 11th and 12th of January. Reports were given from twenty-three branches. The principal topic discussed was, "Woman's Foreign Missionary Work in the Home Churches." Only one-sixth of the women of the Congregational Churches are connected with the Board. The amount of money received the past year was \$153,261.87. The total amount of receipts for 25 years has been over two million dollars. The Board was organized in 1868 with 49 women present. It now has 23 branches with 1700 organizations and a membership of 35,000. During the first year the Board supported seven missionaries and eleven Bible women. It has sent out altogether 213 missionaries and supported 39 boarding schools. During the public sessions of the annual meeting the audience room and galleries of the church were filled to overflowing.

During the month of January intense cold weather has prevailed throughout this country and Europe, in many places the severest known for years. Considerable damage has been done in harbors and rivers by ice. In parts of Europe there has been great suffering from the severe temperature. Wolves have been driven from their hiding places and have appeared in several towns and villages.

Serious riots took place in the Saar district of Germany early in January. The miners, who had struck for higher wages and shorter time, were aroused to madness by anarchists, and did many deeds of violence. The clergy, who counselled moderation, were the objects of special hatred. At about the same time destructive riots took place also in some of the towns of Holland. The windows of the best houses were smashed in and prominent citizens stoned. The cold weather throughout Europe has caused much suffering among the working classes and made them feel more intensely the oppression or neglect which in many instances they have to bear.

About the middle of January the Khedive of Egypt changed his ministry without British consent. The Brit-

ish Government refused to recognize the change, and sent word to the Khedive that he must not take any important governmental steps without consulting the English authorities. Though he afterwards appointed as chief of his council one who was acceptable to the British authorities, he has nevertheless shown himself defiant. This defiance has created uneasiness in England. The action of England has been looked upon unfavorably in France, and has been interpreted to mean the substitution of a policy of annexation for that of a provisional protectorate. In Egypt there have been strong demonstrations in favor of national independence.

Mr. Carnegie has arrived home from Europe, said to be looking much older and grayer than when he went away. From what he has told friends it is inferred that he will do what he can to mitigate the prosecution of the Homestead men. He feels deeply his unfortunate position in connection with the troubles of last summer, and disclaims responsibility for much of what Mr. Frick did, though he considers him an honest and reliable man. He regrets greatly the employment of the Pinkerton men. It is almost certain that if Mr. Carnegie had been at home the Homestead troubles would never have occurred.

The prospect of relief from cholera does not seem at all flattering in Europe. It seems to persist in spite of the cold weather. The latest outbreak is in the Lunatic Asylum at Halle, Germany, where a large number of the patients have been seized by the disease and many have died. Dr. Koch, who is the greatest living authority on cholera, has been trying to discover the causes of the outbreak in the asylum.

#### PEACE SOCIETIES IN AMERICA.

The American Peace Society, 3 Somerset St., Boston, Mass., Benjamin F. Trueblood, Secretary.

The Universal Peace Union, 123 Fourth St., Philadelphia, Pa., Alfred H. Love, President.

The Christian Arbitration and Peace Society, 310 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., John B. Wood, Secretary.

National Association for the Promotion of Arbitration, Washington, D. C., Belva A. Lockwood, President.

Peace Department of the N. W. C. T. U., Winthrop Centre, Maine, Hannah J. Bailey, Superintendent.

The Peace Association of Friends in America, Richmond, Ind., Daniel Hill, Secretary.

The South Carolina Peace Society, Columbia, S. C., Rev. Sidi H. Browne, President.

The Illinois Peace Society, 200 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., Allen J. Flitcraft, Secretary.

The Pacific Coast Arbitration Society, Monterey, California.

The Connecticut Peace Society, Old Mystic, Conn., Fred E. Whipple, Secretary.

The Rhode Island Peace Society, Providence, R. I., Robert P. Gifford, Secretary.